

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/618,809

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

BROOKES ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 47-52.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 7/18/2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Romain Jeanty
ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3623

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 47

Line 21, delete "may be", and insert -- are --.

Line 21, after employing, delete "one or more".

Line 21, after criteria, delete "including", and insert -- comprising--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dennis G. Millman (Reg. No. 26681) on April 29, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 47-52 are allowable.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

This instant application is directed to a method of coordinating services among a paying organization, customers of the paying organization, and a plurality of services providers. The closest prior art of record is to Siegrist (U.S. patent No. 5,642,842). Siegrist teaches a method for analyzing historical performance data of medical services providers. However, Siegrist fails to

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teach or suggest generating by a means of a computer system a preliminary list of service providers as a subset of the preliminary list and ranking by said computer system the final list of service providers employing criteria comprising time interval since last service performed by each service provider as recited in independent claims 47.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Giovannoli (US Patent No. 5,842,178) discloses a communications network for processing requests for quotation for goods and services by broadcasting such requests to network members "service providers" of the system.

b. Wolfe et al (US Patent No. 6,282,517) disclose a method for communicating a potential customer's vehicle purchase request to a seller.

c. spencer (US Patent No. 6,356,909) discloses a system for managing request for proposal which includes the provision of a preliminary list of vendors (col. 4, lines 7-19).

d. Raymond (Wo00072207A1) discloses a method for assisting a user in identifying a base provider for a service.

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e. Walker (Wo9526535) discloses a method for optimizing the utilization of resources (i.e., technicians).

f. Corporate News "PPG Receives CIO Award For IT Application In Forming Business" discloses a consumer resolving a glass replacement or repair claim with a brief telephone call.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RJ

May 2, 2005


ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3623